

Stroll Around Sycamore

July/August 2003

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A Publication Of The Office Of Neighborhood Coordination



**Summer Serenity in Roosevelt Park
Located Close to the Sycamore
Neighborhood Association's
Southern Boundary**

**Mayor Applauds
Area Fire Fighters
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**A Simple Approach To
Neighborhood Improvement
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***AmericanStyle Magazine*
Names Albuquerque In Top 25
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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS/NEW OFFICERS

The Office of Neighborhood Coordination “welcomes” new presidents of neighborhood associations and says a “special thank you” to outgoing presidents. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the improvement of the life-style of your neighborhood.

Neighborhood Association

Five Points
Inez
Los Alamos
West Old Town

“Welcome” to Incoming President

Garrick Delzell
Evelyn Bridges Feltner
Ron Gedrim
Ramona Tafoya

“Thanks” to Outgoing President

James Gutierrez
Bob Bruno
Pat Branda
Rudy Baca

Fair West Neighborhood Association regained their “Recognized” status on July 3, 2003.
Five Points Neighborhood Association regained their “Recognized” status on July 1, 2003.
Los Altos Civic Association regained their “Recognized” status on July 9, 2003.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The ***East End Historical and Cultural Neighborhood Association*** is located in *City Council District 7, Police Beat – SE-332; County Commission District 3 and Community Identity Area – Mid-Heights*. The contacts for this association are *Stephen Anderson and Vernice Spenser*. They became a recognized neighborhood association on July 9, 2003. ***Welcome Aboard!!***

The City of Albuquerque does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, age, gender, Vietnam Era or disabled veteran status, sexual orientation or medical condition in employment or in the provision of services. If you have a disability and will need special assistance to benefit from any of the meetings, hearings, or workshops, etc. appearing in this newsletter, contact the office sponsoring the event two weeks prior to the date of the meeting you plan to attend. Whenever possible, TTY phone numbers will be listed. TTY users may call any phone number listed in this publication via Relay New Mexico at **1-800-659-8331**.



A Message From The Mayor

Martin J. Chavez

Fire!

As you know, on Tuesday, June 24th, a fire erupted just south of Interstate 40 in the Rio Grande Bosque and very quickly spread north being driven by high winds at the time. The fire spread from the west side of the Rio Grande to the east side and many residents on both sides had to evacuate their homes while firefighters worked to contain the blaze and try to extinguish it.

Our fire fighters were able to do just that without the loss of a single home. One house, under construction, did burn down but no one was injured and residents were able to move back into their homes the next day. That Wednesday another fire started, this time north of Interstate 40 and crews were back in action to help contain this blaze as well and again, people had to evacuate their homes as the struggle ensued to contain this new fire. The fight was a very well coordinated effort and involved not only the Albuquerque Fire Department but also fire fighters from many nearby jurisdictions. I would like for you to know whom some of those units are. Both fighters and equipment came from Los Lunas, Bernalillo, Corrales, Los Ranchos, Kirtland Air Force Base, Placitas, Torrance County, and Laguna and Isleta Pueblos. We even got help from the U.S. Forest Service as the Federal Emergency Management Agency quickly came to help with the effort.

I am so very proud of the fact that everyone came together as a community to assist in keeping this tragedy from becoming far more devastating than it actually was. All these fire fighters from so many different places worked tirelessly to help keep our community safe and keep damage to the smallest amount possible. They all have my undying gratitude for their courageous actions and, I am sure, all of yours as well.

On Tuesday, July 1, I met with Senator Pete Domenici, Lt. Governor Diane Denish, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Chief Engineer Subhas Shah and others to formulate strategy to clean up the Rio Grande Bosque and restore it to a more natural and much healthier condition.

We need to clear all non-native trees from the Bosque and clean out a great deal of the accumulated deadfall that builds up on a forest floor. Those fires burned more than 338 acres of the Bosque and were driven along by this deadfall and other debris and by widespread infestations of salt cedar and other non-native trees that have helped make the Bosque unnaturally dense. In addition to this, we need to remove many of the approximately 40,000 old erosion control jetty jacks that were installed years ago. These steel jacks are no longer needed and they sometimes impede emergency response efforts.

If Governor Richardson asks for FEMA "Hazard Mitigation" money and President Bush approves, we could receive significant funding to reduce the fire danger. It is not clear yet how much money the state could receive or exactly how it would be used but I believe it would take about \$10 million to clear approximately 2,500 acres of the Bosque of non-native vegetation and old erosion control jetty jacks throughout Albuquerque. I think it is also critical to do some revegetation of the area before the end of the planting season because fire gives non-native trees an advantage over cottonwoods.

The agencies I have met with agreed to form an ad-hoc committee to continue working quickly on this restoration effort. Lt. Governor Denish said the state is committed to jumping in with both feet. Senator Domenici sponsored a bill in 2001 which is an initiative to restore 5,000 acres of the Bosque, from Corrales to south of Rio Bravo Blvd. This project, which is led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is still in the planning stages but he will try to expedite it.

I envision our Rio Grande Bosque

cleared of all non-native plants, with broad, open spaces, some lakes and more trails. With cottonwood as the centerpiece, it will ultimately be a very beautiful place.

Again, my thanks go out to all the courageous fire fighters, open space and police officers who worked so long and so hard to keep this fire from spreading into an enormously devastating conflagration. Their efforts will not be forgotten.

Martin J. Chavez, Mayor

AmericanStyle Magazine Names Albuquerque In Top 25 Art Destinations

In its 6th annual readers poll, *AmericanStyle* magazine has named Albuquerque (#20) as one of the top United States arts destinations - right along side cities like Chicago (#1), New York City (#2), Boston and San Francisco.

Publisher, Wendy Rose says, "Cities such as Albuquerque have gained a greater understanding of the value of the arts in their community, putting significant effort behind promoting cultural institutions as tourist destinations. Statistics show that cultural tourists contribute almost twice as much financially to the local economy as do business travellers or vacationers with small children. As is evident by Albuquerque's inclusion in the Top 25 list, the arts in your city continue to draw the support and appreciation of both natives and visitors."

AmericanStyle magazine proudly encourages the growth of cultural tourism with its annual Top 25 Arts Destinations poll. The City will receive a commemorative plaque early this summer.

For a complete listing of the Top 25, visit the *AmericaStyle* website at www.americanstyle.com.



NEIGHBORHOOD SCOOP

News From And For Neighborhoods



ACROSS THE FENCE

Stroll Around Sycamore

By Hurma Toshiyeva

Indeed, Sycamore Neighborhood Association has a geographically strategic location. It is placed between the University of New Mexico and Downtown. That makes this neighborhood different from others. I had a great opportunity to talk with Richard Vigliano, current president of the Sycamore Neighborhood Association who gave us a brief history of the neighborhood association formation and the current/future goals of the organization.

Historically, the Sycamore Neighborhood was legally the Brownell and Lail's Highland Addition. It was platted early in 1886, but little building took place until about 1910. The first buildings were constructed along Central Avenue. Among the first buildings were the cottages that comprised the Southwestern Presbyterian Sanatorium, what is now Presbyterian Hospital, which opened in 1908, housing 30 patients. In 1911 an administration building and another patient cottage were added. In 1913 two additional wings and an operating room were added to the administration building. Service buildings, a dormitory for nurses and another cottages were all added prior to 1920.

During World War II there were minor additions to the hospital campus. After the war, the Ruth Hanna McCormick wing with was built to house maternity patients. The 1950's brought a major construction project to Presbyterian Hospital with the replacement of some of the smaller buildings and the addition of a 450-bed

hospital, which opened in 1961 (City of Albuquerque *Sycamore Redevelopment Plan*, 1986).

One of the sightseeing gems of the Sycamore neighborhood is Roosevelt Park. It opened during the middle of the

styles prevalent in Albuquerque then - mostly bungalows, Mediterranean styles and early examples of the Pueblo Revival style.

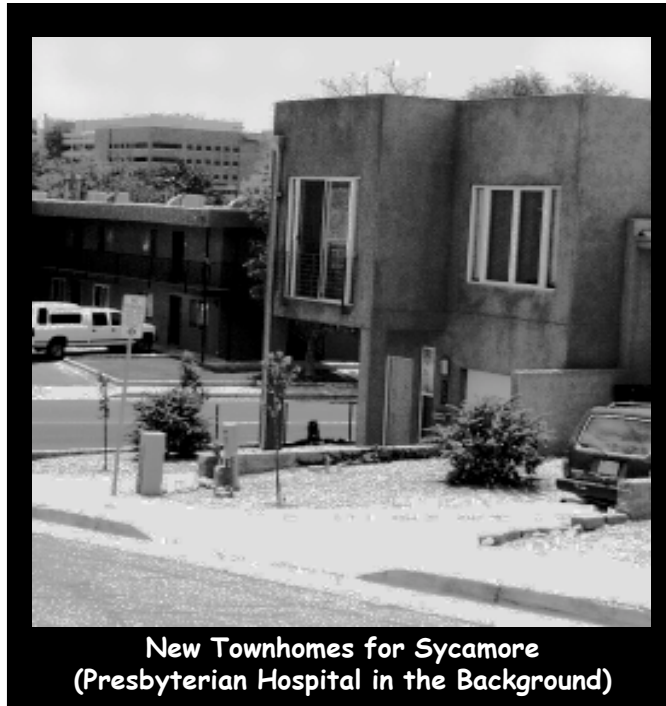
Currently, approximately 30% of the neighborhood is classified as institutional, 30% multi-family residential and 35% single family residential. The majority of residents rent rather than own, although the new developments on Copper and Martin Luther King Avenues are primarily occupied by owners. Most of the people who live close to the University of New Mexico, within the Sycamore Neighborhood Association boundaries, are students at UNM and TVI.

Some growing concerns for the future of the area were expressed by Richard Vigliano, "there is a great need for (re)-investment - to grow this urban neighborhood and, like it or not, it is an urban neighborhood. You can work, shop and entertain yourself

without getting in your car." The new townhomes on Martin Luther King, between Spruce and Cedar, are a good example of what can be done to improve the Sycamore area.

The Sycamore Neighborhood Association board has a rather unique membership feature in that it includes representatives from Spruce Park and Silver Hills Neighborhood Associations as well as Presbyterian Hospital. They are a "down to business" board that meets monthly to share information and confront the issues.

Special thanks to Richard Vigliano who gave me an inside look at the Sycamore scene.



**New Townhomes for Sycamore
(Presbyterian Hospital in the Background)**

Great Depression. It was built with federal Civil Works Administration funding obtained through Albuquerque Mayor Clyde Tingley's close friendship with President Franklin Roosevelt. The park's name was changed from the original "Terrace Park" soon after its opening to honor its popular benefactor.

Designed by local landscape architect and greenhouse operator C. Edmund "Bud" Hollied, the park remains one of the Southwest's best examples of New Deal landscaping. Nowadays, Roosevelt Park continues to be a popular location for recreation and relaxation in the heart of the city.

Most of Sycamore's older homes were built during the 1920's and reflect the

NEIGHBORHOOD SCOOP continued



FROM THE
MANAGER'S
DESK

Herb Howell

A Simple Approach To Neighborhood Improvement - Part 2

(Credit to the City of Tacoma, Neighborhood Council Office)

Every neighborhood has it's own special segments that constitute their identity. They have their own unique problems and strengths. There is always something(s) that sets your neighborhood apart from other similar neighborhoods. The goal of this series is to help you and your neighbors improve the quality of life, without destroying the individuality. This article can be used as a guide for groups planning to deal with local problems. We are suggesting various methods for collecting information. In addition, we will "present a list of characteristics for you to look for in analyzing your neighborhood."

Before embarking on a information gathering expedition, check with the Office of Neighborhood Coordination to see if some of your desired information already exists. If that desired information does not exist, here are some ways you might consider to begin developing a data base about your neighborhood: *Windshield Survey, Door-to Door Survey, Mail-Out Survey, Research, Meetings, Base Maps.*

Windshield Survey

"Organize a group of people who will drive down every street in the neighborhood listing information about the conditions in the area. A form or checklist will help people record the conditions they see and will help to compile the information. For instance, surveyor could check the number of houses that need repair."

Door To Door Survey

Ask people to go door to door and survey the residents about neighborhood conditions and their attitudes about them. You could ask open-ended questions like: "What would you like to see changed in your/our neighborhood?" Also, you may want to ask some very specific questions like: "Would you like to see the corner of Lomas and Broadway developed into a multi-use building?" Face to face interviews insure a better percentage of return, but you always have the option to leave the survey for the resident to complete later. Be sure to write the date and time you will return to pick up

the survey. This promises to increase the number of surveys returned.

Mail Out Survey

"Print a survey form and mail or deliver it to the residents asking them to complete it and mail it back. Be sure you have clear instructions, including the return address, for mailing back the survey. The major drawbacks to this method are the costs of mailing and the relatively small expected return.

Research

Census reports contain valuable information about the demographics of your neighborhood. A review of these documents will give you much valuable information.

Meetings

Town Hall type and neighborhood meetings can generate valuable information. The best way to let people know is by flyers, mailings, and telephone calls. "The Neighborhood News", published monthly by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination, can assist you in notifying the public about your planned meeting. Be sure to include the time, date, place, and subject of the meeting. Have a definite topic to be discussed for the meeting, state it, and then stick to that topic until that issue is resolved.

The difficulty is to not take tangents, and to hold other comments until the end or delay them until another time. Keep written records of the meeting as well as a audio tape, so you can put it into usable form at a later date.

Base Maps

Most people can understand issues better if they can see a map or chart that shows the conditions. AGIS, which is a part of the Planning Department, has immense capability when it comes to producing color maps, with the degree of a problem. for instance. However, these are no longer free to the general public. They do produce high quality work and it might be very useful for you to call their Division Manager, Neal Weinberg, at 924-3807, to see what they can do to aid your neighborhood.

Next month, we will explore the Types of information you will want to gather, for improvements of your neighborhood.

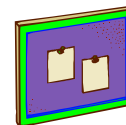


**Neighborhood
Workshop Corner**

Workshops are held in the Plaza Del Sol Building Hearing Room #160, Basement Level, 600 Second St. NW.

**Land Use and Zoning Workshop
Saturday, September 27, 2003
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

This workshop is designed to increase your knowledge and understanding of all the aspects of Zoning and Land Use issues at EPC, DRB and ZHE hearings. We utilize the Planning Department division managers and selected community and board members to provide this informative training. **Register on line at <www.cabq.gov/planning/pages/neighborhood/newsletter/newsletter.html>.**



**News Flashes
For Neighborhoods**

Chelwood Vista Flea Market

Where: Chelwood Park (1 block south of Lomas on Nakomis; 1 light east of Tramway).

When: Saturday August 2, 2003

Why: To raise money for the CVNA

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will have rental spaces for rent at \$15 for non-members; \$10 for members of CVNA. We will also have a table of donated items that we will be selling for CVNA. We will be selling donuts, hot dogs, sodas, chips, cookies, etc. For more information call Lovie at 299-7910, Barbara at 291-9347 or Mary at 293-4471.



NEIGHBORHOOD SCOOP continued

Community Policing On The Move



That Strange House In The Middle of the Block

In a Northeast Heights Neighborhood we have this very short segment of a block - approximately 100 feet long which accommodates one, single story, family home. The exterior maintenance is indifferent in that it does not appear to be maintained at the same level of care as do the other homes in that small area.

There are some other considerations that concern the neighbors and the Neighborhood Association - other than exterior maintenance. There is an extraordinary number of vehicles and visitors to this address day and night. At times there are so many vehicles parked at or near to the address that neighbors are not able to enter or leave their driveways. At one time, during an eight-hour period, twelve vehicles stopped at the address. Soon traffic in the neighborhood increased to the where vehicle movement in the neighborhood became a severe and disruptive problem.

Several neighbors have been conducting an unofficial surveillance of the property and have amassed a large number of motor vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers along with descriptions of the visitors. One neighbor reported seeing a small packet being passed from the occupant of the address to another person and, in return, receiving something from the visitor.

The neighbors and the Neighborhood Association decided on a course of action; they appointed a spokesperson who would enlist the help of the City District Councilor and Northeast Heights Police Command to help determine what, if anything illegal, was taking place at the address. The police would do ordinary

surveillance of the address while the neighbors would continue to observe and periodically make reports to their spokesperson. Additionally narcotics investigators began an investigation of the address and its occupant. As a result of these activities, three felony arrests were made at another nearby residence.

This Community Oriented Policing/ Problem Solving is another good example of how Community Leaders, neighbors, and police authorities can cooperate in attempting to solve another neighborhood dilemma /problem.

The address continues to be a "sore spot" for the Neighborhood Association, the neighbors, and the police because nothing has been resolved and parking and traffic continue to be problems. The surveillance by the police and neighbors at the address continue. We all hope that the problem can be addressed satisfactorily.

As I was reviewing this essay, I was reminded of a song from the 1950's "The Green Door" - "Green door what's that secret you're keeping? One more night without sleeping." Words and music by M. Moore and W. David.

We shall endeavor to persevere.

Conchas Park Unveils New Playground and Park Improvements

WHO - Conchas Park Neighborhood Association

WHAT - Family, Food, Fun, and Frolic

WHEN - Sunday, August 10, 2003;
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE - Albuquerque's Conchas Park (north of Menaul, west of Eubank)

WHY - To commemorate the completion of a year-long plan to renovate our park and its facility. We're planning a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with a Cook-Out and other fun activities. ***Come Join Us!***



Latest Scams Are Costly and Dangerous

Perfume Scam: You may be leaving the mall or a grocery store. A man comes up to you and asks what kind of perfume you use. You tell him and he says, "Gee, I just happen to have a sample of that and I can give it to you at a great price." He offers you a whiff.

Don't do it! You may get a whiff of chloroform, not perfume! You will be unconscious within seconds and you will be at his mercy.

Telephone Scam: Your telephone rings and a man tells you he is checking your telephone line. He asks you to hang up, then dial **90809** to verify that your line is working correctly.

Don't do it! By doing so, you enable the bad guys to make unlimited long distance calls at your expense. You won't like it when you get the bill!

Consumer Myths

Myth #1: An offer that sounds too good to be true is a great opportunity. ***True*** - but the opportunity to make money is more likely to benefit the person making the offer, not you. It's usually a good way for you to lose money.

Myth #2: Consumers have 72 hours to change their mind about a purchase, even a car purchase. ***Unfortunately***, this applies only in very limited circumstances. Door to door sales, initiated by the seller, are subject to the right of cancellation. If you suffer from buyer's remorse after the purchasing a car, you are unlikely to be able to return it.

Myth #3: I don't need to read all the fine print. I'll take the work of the salesperson. ***Do not rely*** on a salesperson to tell you everything. When you sign a contract, you are binding yourself to those terms. If you don't understand it, have a friend, relative or attorney review it.

(Reprinted with permission from the *Albuquerque Block Captains Association Newsletter*, Volume XVIII, No. 2, July 2003).



A Message From Your City Council

Council staff may be reached at **768-3100**. The agenda for an upcoming council meeting may be checked by calling **768-3100** after 1 p.m. on the Friday immediately prior to the council meeting. The City Council's fax number is **768-3227**. Agendas, Action Items and Summaries are available on the Council's webpage at <www.cabq.gov/council/counsched.html> (Front Row, L to R: Tina Cummins, District 9; Eric Griego, District 3; Brad Winter, District 4; Sally Mayer, District 7; Michael Cadigan, District 5; Greg Payne, Vice President District 8. Back Row, L to R: Vincent Griego, President, District 2; Miguel Gomez, District 1, Hess Yntema, District 6).

The Council has been busy over the last couple of months and has passed various pieces of legislation. The following is a brief synopsis on **smoking, water conservation** and **abandoned/inoperable vehicles**.

SMOKING

Bill O-03-85 amended the existing Clean Indoor Air Act and became effective on July 3, 2003. As of July 3rd, smoking is not allowed in restaurants in the city, with the exception of "restaurant bars".

What is a *restaurant bar*? A restaurant bar must receive 50% or more of its annual gross revenues from the sale of alcoholic beverages. A restaurant bar has to be designed so that non-smoking customers can receive all services without having to walk through any designated smoking area. Some additional rules for restaurant bars include: the restaurant portion outside the restaurant bar area must be designated non-smoking and the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning ("HVAC") systems must be adjusted immediately to assure that the return flows are at maximum levels for removal of smoke.

By July 3, 2004, a restaurant bar area must be separated by solid walls that extend from the floor to ceiling with solid doors on all passageways into the restaurant bar area that must be closed when not in use. Restaurant bars also have one year to install separate HVAC systems for the bar and the restaurant areas, or the restaurant bar area must also be smoke free. Restaurants can allow smoking in outdoor areas so long as the smoking is a "reasonable distance" from a door, window or ventilation system opening, and customers don't have to walk through the smoking area to enter the business.

The ordinance does not apply to bars or private clubs, like the Elks Club. Hotels and motels must designate at least 75% of their guest rooms as smoke free. Licensed childcare and adult day care and health facilities (even in private homes) must be smoke free. A customer or employee cannot be retaliated against for reporting a violation of the ordinance.

ABANDONED/INOPERABLE VEHICLES

Bill O-03-88 became effective on May 14, 2003. This ordinance is intended to protect the integrity and aesthetic importance of neighborhoods in the city by preventing inoperable and abandoned vehicles from littering property.

An abandoned vehicle is defined as any vehicle parked on or along any street alley or public way, with no current license plate and validation sticker. The vehicle must be left unattended for a period of at least 36 consecutive hours or for a period of 24 consecutive hours if left on private property without consent of property owner.

An inoperable vehicle is defined as any vehicle in which, for a period of at least 3 consecutive days, the engine, wheels, tires or other parts have been removed or damaged so that the vehicle is incapable of being driven under its own motor power. A vehicle that is not registered or does not display a current valid license plate and validation sticker shall be deemed inoperable. A vehicle shall be deemed inoperable when it has one or more flat tires or has one or more missing or broken windshield(s) or window(s), to the extent that visibility is limited and makes driving such a vehicle unsafe.




This ordinance does not affect a vehicle in an enclosed building or on the premise of a business that services vehicles. The Albuquerque Police Department is responsible for enforcing this ordinance.

WATER CONSERVATION

The City of Albuquerque offers several water rebate incentive programs. Valid participation in these programs may result in a credit applied to your water bill. In some instances, a licensed plumbing contractor must verify the change. Please contact the Water Conservation Office at (505) 768-3655 for additional information on any of the incentive programs.

Water rebate incentive programs include:

- Switching to the following units: swamp cooler to refrigerated air, a dishwasher that uses 7 gallons of water or less per load, a low flow toilet or a high efficiency washing machine.
- Xeriscape Incentive - \$0.40 for every square foot of qualifying landscape up to 2,000 square feet (\$800).
- Other incentive programs include: Rainwater Harvesting Barrels, Hot Water Recirculating Systems, Multi-Setting Sprinkler Timers and Gray Water Recycling Systems.

21 - 30	1 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 31
Tuesday, July 22 •BOA – 9 a.m.	Monday, August 4 •City Council – 5 p.m.	Monday, August 11 •GABAC – 4:30 p.m. •City Council – 5 p.m. (<i>Land Use Matters Only</i>) •SWAN – 6:30 p.m.	Thursday, August 21 •EPC – 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, July 23 •DRB – 9 a.m. •EPC Pre-Hearing – 1:30 p.m. •TAB – 1:30 p.m.	Wednesday, August 6 •DRB – 9 a.m. •ACTMI – 9:30 a.m.		Monday, August 25 •City Council – 5 p.m.
Thursday, July 24 •District 8 Coalition - 7 p.m.	Thursday, August 7 •District 7 Coalition	Wednesday, August 13 •DRB – 9 a.m. •LUCC – 3 p.m. •AQCB – 5 p.m. •District 6 Coalition – 7 p.m.	Tuesday, August 26 •BOA – 9 a.m.
Monday, July 28 •City Council – 5 p.m.* *(if needed, call 768-3100 to confirm)		Thursday, August 14 •POC – 4 p.m.	Wednesday, August 27 •DRB – 9 a.m. •LEPC – 9 a.m. •EPC Pre-Hearing – 1:30 p.m. •TAB – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 30 •DRB – 9 a.m. •LEPC – 9 a.m.		Monday, August 18 •City Council – 5 p.m.	
		Tuesday, August 19 •ZHE – 9 a.m. •GARTC – 4:30 p.m.	
		Wednesday, August 20 •DRB – 9 a.m. •District 4 Coalition – 7 p.m.	

~Happenings Around Albuquerque~

- Albuquerque BioPark Summer Nights 2003 - Event time: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Concerts from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$
 - July 24 - Mem Shannon - Blues & Funk Music
 - July 31 - Rye Creek - Eclectic Celtic Music
 - August 7 - Full Frontal Folk - Folk Music
 - August 14 - The Duhks - Canadian Celtic Music
 - August 21 - Higher Ground - Bluegrass Music
 - August 28 - South by Southwest - Country Dance Music
- Albuquerque BioPark Zoo Music - Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Concert starts at 7 p.m. Animal exhibits close at 8 p.m. \$
 - July 25 - Cathie Ryan with Seamus Kennedy - Celtic
- Summerfest 2003 - Downtown on Civic Plaza Saturdays from 6 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. FREE !
 - July 26 - Country Sounds - featuring David Ball and Johnny Rodriguez
 - August 2 - Latin Sizzle - featuring Al Hurrican and Al Hurricane Jr.